

Executive Director Report for February 2025

Legislative/Policy Work

1. **ODMAP payments should be out (including initial payments & top up).**
2. Organic Dairy Assistance, Investment, and Reporting Yields Act of 2023 (O DAIRY Act of 2023) – Senate Bill 3097
 1. Some parts have been included in the Farm Bill proposals
3. “The Organic Dairy Data Collection Act” – House Bill 6937
 1. Full proposal text included in current Farm Bill proposals
4. Elections/ Appointments:
 1. Nominations update
 - i. Brooke Rollins has officially been sworn in as our Secretary of Agriculture.
 2. Farm Bill update
 - i. Federal government to remain running at 2024 levels through March 14, 2025
 - ii. Farm Bill extended one year (set to expire September 30, 2025)
 - iii. No funding for “orphan programs” including organic certification cost-share, the Organic Data Initiative and the Organic Certification Trade & Tracking Program
 - iv. Final 2025 appropriations package is now due to be completed by March 14th
 - v. 2026 appropriations package is due September 30th
5. Implemented Tariffs
 1. Canada: 25% tariffs on all goods, except for energy and energy resources, which will face 10% tariffs
 2. Mexico: 25% tariffs on all goods
 3. China: 10% tariffs on all goods and elimination of de minimis exemptions
 4. Mexico & Canada tariffs are paused for 30 days (through March 3rd)
6. Avian Influenza Detection and Spread

1. [USDA to Begin Accepting Applications for Expanded Emergency Livestock Assistance Program to Help Dairy Producers Offset Milk Loss Due to H5N1 | Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service](#)
 - i. Confirmed H5N1 positive test results are required for recovery assistance
 - ii. OFA Farmer Hotline to help buffer: (833)724-3834

Mercaris/ Argus update:

1. Waiting on Q4 2024's organic milk survey
2. Mercaris/Argus collecting statements for Q1 2025 (January, February, March)
 - a. Send statements to AgData@ArgusMedia.com
 - b. All organic dairy producers can submit statements. Only paying WODPA members can see the survey results.
 - c. SEND IN YOUR STATEMENTS NOW PLEASE

Financial Opportunities:

1. Organic Dairy Exemption Request Form
 - a. [AMS-15 - Organic Exemption Request Form | Agricultural Marketing Service \(usda.gov\)](#)
2. Organic Transition Initiative Direct Farmer Assistance
 - a. [Organic Transition Initiative Direct Farmer Assistance | Farmers.gov](#)

Reminders:

1. Strengthening Organic Enforcement Rule is now in full effect March 19, 2024.
 - a. If anyone is in need of a certifier, please visit [Organic Integrity Database \(usda.gov\)](#)
2. Organic Livestock and Poultry Standards (OLPS) Rule has officially been announced.
 - a. Effective date: January 12, 2024
 - b. **Compliance date: January 2, 2025**
3. 2025 Consumer perception of USDA Organic & Competing Label Claims
 - a. February 18th @ 10am

- b.** To register: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)
- 4. Save the Dates:
 - a. WODPA Conference & Trade Show
 - i. October 28–29, 2025 in Santa Rosa, California